

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2006

Chair Sandy Booher called the meeting of the Mayor's Council on Disability to order at 2:05pm, in Room 1A of the Development Resource Center. Officers, Jill Hindman and Bea Lyons were present. Linda Hershey provided real-time captioning services for the meeting, and Michelle Michaud attended representing Mayor Littlefield's office. Karl Epperson and Kim Williams sent word that they would not be able to attend today's meeting. Deta Ashley, secretary, has resigned from service to the Council. Vice chair Bea Lyons will prepare meeting minutes until a new secretary is elected.

Ms. Booher reported on the officers meeting that was held at 3:00pm on January 04, 2006, in the Mayor's small conference room. Committees and assignments to those committees were discussed. Ms. Hindman and Ms. Lyons will serve on a Bylaws Committee to develop a set of bylaws for our Chattanooga Mayor's Council on Disability. Six standing committees will be created: Public Awareness, Legislation, Transportation, Employment, Accessibility, and Housing. Committee assignments to date include the following:

Public Awareness Committee: Karl Epperson, Jill Hindman, and a vacancy

Legislation Committee: Kim Williams and two vacancies

Transportation Committee: Sandy Booher and two vacancies

Employment Committee: Richard Parker and two vacancies

Accessibility Committee: Bea Lyons and two Vacancies

Housing Committee: three vacancies

Council members present gave the name Mayor's Council on Disability to this new Council. There will be 15 members serving on the Council with at least two-thirds of the membership having a disability (10) and one-third of the membership having no disability (5). At this time there are seven members of the Council who have agreed to serve. Recruitment of interested persons representing various disabilities is in progress. Prospective Council members will be contacted and asked to provide a one-page narrative about their experience, background and involvement with disabilities and their interests. Meetings will be open to the public and organized in whatever manner the Council deems appropriate. It's all about relationships and everyone understanding one another so that the Council will be successful.

Discussion continued on promotion of the Council and publicity out into the community. The suggestion was made to have the Public Awareness Committee members to work on publicity until such time as the full Council is in place. A second suggestion was made to put out a call for membership, first identifying all the disability organizations in town and sending a letter to the executive director/CEO stating that the Council is looking for representatives to attend monthly meetings. Possible names for Council members were provided.

Council organization was discussed as to the number of meetings to be held each month, a main meeting and an officers meeting every month with perhaps committee meetings less frequently. The Mayor would like to sponsor one-and-a-half hours of real-time captioning services per month. His hope is that the monthly Council meeting would be kept to one hour in length, with the officers meeting to be held immediately following the Council meeting for the remaining half-hour. Committee meetings can be held in the Mayor's small conference room, while the Council meetings can be held in Room 1A of the Development Resource Center.

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Liaison Michaud set up a meeting of the Council officers with Mayor Littlefield for Monday, January 23, 2006, at 9:30am in his office. They will share progress to date on formation of the Council. Officers will meet immediately following their time with the Mayor.

Announcement was made of the Go-Fest Planning Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, January 26, 2006, at 10:00am, in Room 1A of the Development Resource Center located at 1250 Market Street downtown. The normal time for these planning meetings is once per month on Wednesday morning at 10:00am. The Go-Fest Steering Committee is meeting every two weeks.

The next Council meeting was set for Monday, February 06, 2006, at 3:00pm, in Room 1A of the Development Resource Center. The regular monthly meeting time was changed to 3:00-4:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Lyons

Beatrice Lyons, Vice Chair/Acting Secretary
Mayor's Council on Disability